Message Text

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SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON DEALING WITH CERDS

REF: A. STATE 133602, B. STATE 136591

SUMMARY. DANISH THINKING ON HANDLING REFERENCES TO THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS) AND A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO) RUNS GENERALLY PARALLEL TO OURS. THEY HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS, HOWEVER, THAT UNIFIED APPROACH TO PROBLEM IS POSSIBLE. FONOFF HAS INSTRUCTED ITS UN MISSION TO DUCK THESE ISSUES, IF POSSIBLE, AT SECOND PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING FOR SEVENTH SPECIAL UNGA THIS WEEK BUT, IF PROPOSALS INCORPORATING OBJECTIONAL REFERENCES TO CERDS AND NIEO SHOULD COME TO A VOTE, TO ABSTAIN AND STATE AS REASON PREVIOUS DANISH RESERVATIONS ON THESE ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. US THINKING ON APPROACHES TO DEALING WITH REFERENCES TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CERDS AND NIEO IN US FORUMS (REF A) WERE GIVEN TO FONOFF LAST

WEEK IN AN AIDE MEMOIRE. FONOFF CONSIDERED US POSITION IN PREPARING INSTRUCTIONS TO DANISH UN MISSION ON HANDLING OF THESE QUESTIONS AT PREP COMM MEETING ON SEVENTH SPECIAL UNGA STARTING JUNE 16. MISSION WAS TOLD THAT, IF REFERENCES TO CERDS AND NIEO ARISE IN MEETING, IT SHOULD ATTEMPT TO HAVE REFERENCES FORMULATED IN WAY WHICH RESPECT PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED DANISH RESERVATIONS. FONOFF DOES NOT BELIEVE QUESTION WOULD COME TO A VOTE BUT, IF IT DOES, DENMARK WOULD PROBABLY ABSTAIN AND REITERATE ITS RESERVATIONS IN EXPLAINING ITS VOTING POSITION.

- 2. IN GIVING HIS PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON OUR AIDE MEMOIRE, FONOFF OFFICE DIRECTOR ISAKSEN TOLD ECON COUNS THAT HE AGREED WITH US OBJECTIVES BUT THOUGHT WE WERE BEING TOO AMBITIOUS IN PROPOSING A UNIFIED APPROACH TO THESE PROBLEMS. HE NOTED THAT NOT EVEN NORDICS OR EC CAN AGREE ON COMMON LINE; HE SAW NO HOPE FOR AGREEMENT AMONG LARGER GROUPING OF WESTERN COUNTRIES.
- 3. ON THE BASIS OF HIS UN EXPERIENCE, ISAKSEN THOUGHT POLITICAL TACTICS ON HANDLING OF LDC ISSUES WERE SO DIVERGENT AMONG WESTERN COUNTRIES THAT EACH QUESTION WILL HAVE TO BE HANDLED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. THIS RELATED ALSO TO DENMARK WHICH WILL, OUT OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, HAVE TO TREAD VERY CAREFULLY IN VOTING ON THESE ISSUES. HE NOTED THAT THE NEGATIVE VOTE CAST BY DENMARK LAST YEAR ON CERDS UNDER A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WAS CRITICIZED BY THE SUCCEEDING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN. GIVEN THIS POLITICAL REALITY, ISAKSEN FELT THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION NOW REQUIRES CASE-BY-CASE DECISIONS. HE THOUGHT THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS SENT LAST WEEK TO THE DANISH UN MISSION FOR THE PREP COMM WOULD LIKELY BE THE MODEL HE WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW ON ISSUES OF THIS SORT.
- 4. ISAKSEN EMPHASIZED THAT HIS WERE ONLY VERY PRELIMINARY VIEWS AND THAT THE ISSUE REQUIRES FURTHER STUDY AND CONSIDERATION AND, FOR THIS, THE US THOUGHTS ARE VERY WELCOME.
- 5. EMBASSY COMMENT. THE CHARGE HAS ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF HOW ONE HANDLES THE NEW CHALLENGES FROM THE LDC'S WITH FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR BORCH WHO IMMEDIATELY PROPOSED A DISCUSSION IN DEPTH ON THE ISSUE BETWEEN THE EMBASSY, HIMSELF AND ISAKSEN. WE EXPECT THIS DISCUSSION TO PROVIDE A MORE CONSIDERED READING ON DANISH VIEWS THAN ISAKSEN'S INITIAL REACTIONS. DUNNIGAN

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